

Mark Proctor

family & children advocacy services

713 N. Madison Avenue Pierre, SD 57501

January 22, 2002

Renata Hesse
Trial Attorney
Anti-trust Division
US Department of Justice
601 D Street NW, Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Ms. Hesse:

On the issue of the settlement agreement in US v. Microsoft, please allow this agreement to move forward so that this anti-trust case is allowed to come to a fair and final conclusion very soon.

The time and money which has gone into this case, in both the government and private sectors, has been more than sufficient to render sensible decisions. It is my understanding that the settlement agreement addresses each of the issues which needed to be addressed by the courts. It is interesting that none of Microsoft's practices and policies were determined to be harmful to consumers. As someone who has worked in family and children advocacy projects in western South Dakota, I am pleased that an important aspect of this settlement will help to bridge the IT gap among poorer children in the nation.

The distribution of computers and supplies by Microsoft is in keeping with the reputation of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The Foundation made a sizeable gift to our state to enhance the development of IT services within South Dakota's public school systems. And the Foundation has a tremendous record of philanthropic contributions to eliminate diseases worldwide through vaccination programs. Despite the criticism by some, the remedy of forcing Microsoft to install and maintain computer systems in public schools to help the neediest children is profoundly wise and beneficial to society.

Sincerely,



Mark Proctor

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